

HOT DEBATE IN HOUSE

Hemans Defines the Position of the Minority on the Primary Election Bill.

NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS MADE

Summed Up, However, the Measure Practically Came Out of the Same Hole That It Went In.

Lansing, Mich., April 7.—The house took another whirl at the primary election bill Thursday, and the engagement was characterized by the most extended and exciting debate of the session. The friends of the bill marshalled under the generalship of Speaker Pro Tem. Colby, who has persistently advocated this reform through several sessions, and who is still its most ardent



LAWTON T. HEMANS. champion. He was assisted by several enthusiastic supporters of the measure. The principal opposition to the bill came from the upper peninsula members, although not a few of the legislators from below the straits are not in sympathy with some of its provisions.

Position of the Minority.

During the course of the debate Representative Lawton T. Hemans, the accomplished leader of the Democracy in the lower house, took occasion to declare the position of the minority regarding this important subject. He said that while they favored the bill, they desired amendments providing for a blanket ballot and the elimination of the provision that no party which cast less than 5 per cent of the total vote of the state at the last preceding general election can have an official ballot. Mr. Hemans emphasized the statement that there would be no need for primary election reform were the two great parties evenly divided in the state, and created much laughter by declaring that "if you keep your money out of the pockets of Democrats they will not bother you at your caucuses." Although favoring the proposed reform, he could not, he said, vote for the bill as at present constituted. Mr. Hemans is one of the most respected members of the legislature, and his ability is recognized by his opponents, who accord him a respectful hearing whenever he has anything to say.

Come Out of the Same Hole.

There was considerable filibustering at the close of Thursday's hearing, and the result of the engagement was that the bill practically came out of the same hole it went in. A number of amendments were made during the session of the committee of the whole, and a substitute was offered by Representative Gallup of the upper peninsula. After a parliamentary battle which lasted for nearly an hour, the bill was again made the special order for tomorrow afternoon. In the meantime the Gallup substitute has been printed. The entire question will probably be disposed of, so far as the house is concerned, this week.

It will be interesting to sportsmen and others throughout the state who occasionally get after game to note the changes in the game laws as proposed by the Burns-Westover bill, which has been reported favorably by the senate committee on gaming interests. The most important changes are the open season for deer from November 8 to November 30, to November 10 to November 30, thus shortening the season two days; open season for quail and partridges from October 1 to December 15, to October 15 to November 30, a reduction of 30 days; open season for duck and woodcock, from October 1 to December 15, to September 1 to February 15, this being an increase of three months. The bill, however, prohibits the spring shooting of ducks, and will meet with opposition for this reason. The measure further reduces from three to two the number of deer that one person may legally shoot during the open season, but the provision originally incorporated permitting the sale of venison in the state was eliminated.

Inequalities in Taxation.

The house committee on taxation has given considerable attention during the week to the various measures designed to cure the inequalities at present existing in the matter of taxing credits. Several hearings were given interested parties, citizens from

various parts of the state being present and participating in the discussion of this most important subject. Those who are following the matter closely are inclined to the opinion that a majority of the committee favor the bill of Representative Ward of Mecosta, which exempts all credits from taxation. A member of the state tax commission declared at one of the hearings that the members of the commission were in favor of giving this plan a trial. It is believed that this will be done so far as the committee is concerned, and the house will, at an early day, be given an opportunity to express its opinion on this measure. Some of the experts say that this is the most feasible and practical plan of avoiding the present system of double taxation.

Alger Speaks for Simons' Bill.

During his visit to Lansing last week to attend the exercises in memory of the late Senator James McMillan, Senator Alger took occasion to appear before the senate finance committee and speak in favor of the Simons bill, making an appropriation for a soldiers' and sailors' monument. Senator Alger was accompanied on this mission by Commander Anthony and Past Commanders Duffield and James of the Michigan Department, G. A. R., the senator also being a past commander. All of these ex-soldiers favored the original plan of erecting a monument and declared against the suggestion that the memorial take the form of a building, which could be utilized as headquarters for the state military department and for other state purposes. They were of the opinion that the object of the memorial would, under such uses, soon be lost sight of altogether.

The McMillan memorial exercises were very impressive. The two houses met in joint convention and the programme was listened to by a vast audience, which included prominent citizens of various sections of the state, who came to pay their respects and do honor to the memory of the dead senator. Addresses were made by Senators Burrows and Alger and ex-Senator Patton.

Probationary Bill Still in the Air.

The probationary bill mentioned by me last week is still in the air. After its passage in both houses under a suspension of the rules, many of the legislators came to the conclusion that a measure of such great importance was worthy of more careful consideration. It was, therefore, recalled from the governor and is now in the hands of the judiciary committee of the house. There are a number of legislators who do not believe that judges should be given the power to place convicts on probation, either before or after sentence. The stampede which resulted in the rush to recall the bill was due to the fear that the measure would furnish an opportunity for the release of Frank C. Andrews, who is now in prison for wrecking the City Savings bank of Detroit. This fear emphasizes the fact that little or no consideration was given the bill when it was rushed through. As a matter of fact, Andrews could not possibly be benefited by it, as it provides that the courts shall not have power to place convicts on probation after they have been committed to prison.

Think \$125,000 Not Too Much.

A majority of the senators believe that \$125,000 is not too much money to appropriate for the Michigan exhibit and building at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. A bill carrying that appropriation has passed the senate and gone to the house. In the senate it received a bare majority vote—17. President Pro Tem. Fuller ruled that a two-thirds vote was necessary, holding that the appropriation is for a private purpose. This question was referred to Attorney General Blair, who decided that the purpose is purely of a public nature, and so the bill passed with 17 votes. There is little doubt that the amount will be reduced by the house, the indications being that at least \$50,000 will be lopped off.

Although Representative Holmes bade his bill requiring sureties on liquor bonds to file a schedule of their property a fond and affectionate farewell when it was sent to the house judiciary committee a few days ago, neither he nor the state anti-saloon league propose to have it go to its death without making a desperate effort to save it. The officers of the league have appealed to the churches of the state to flood the legislature with petitions asking for the passage of this bill which, they declare, will materially lessen the number of saloons in the state if it becomes a law. The league hopes that at least 100,000 citizens will comply with its request and sign these petitions.

Bills Affecting Railways.

The railroad committee of the house gave a hearing on the several bills affecting the companies last week, and a number of railroad officials spoke in opposition to these measures, especially that of Representative Read, which provides for the submission to the people of a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a commission to establish maximum freight rates throughout the state. This plan is designed to do away with the discrimination which is alleged to be practiced by all the roads. Representatives of the Michigan Manufacturers' association spoke in favor of the proposition and cited numerous instances of discrimination which, in their judgment, warrants the fixing of these rates by state authority. Representatives of the railroads insisted that the companies of this state are not discriminating in the matter of rates and are giving first class service, or at least as good service as is possible in view of their receipts and expenses. **JAMES V. BARRY.**

FIGHT AT SAN DOMINGO

Capital City of the Republic Attacked by the President, Who Is Repulsed.

Washington, April 6.—A report to the navy department from Commander Turner, of the cruiser Atlanta, at San Domingo City, is as follows, dated April 5: "Government forces attacked city yesterday; were repulsed. Report indicates Vasquez [the president] approaching with strong force. Government gunboat fired three shots last night without injury. City fortified; apparently determined to resist. Landed marines to protect the consulate."

One day last week Commander Turner landed a force of fifty marines to guard the United States consulate at Santo Domingo City, when the situation was regarded as very critical.

Fatal Fire at Kansas City.

Kansas City, April 6.—One man was burned to death and another was so badly burned that he soon died, and three others were slightly burned in a fire here in a four-story brick building at 500 West Fourteenth street, occupied by Mrs. Mary Hallen as a boarding house. William Ridgley, a railway mail clerk, was found dead in his room on the fourth floor, and John Pugh, an employee of the Price Mercantile Company, was so badly burned about the body that he died on the way to the hospital.

Death of Tom Allen.

St. Louis, April 6.—Tom Allen, retired heavy weight champion pugilist of the world, who for the past twenty-five years has conducted a small saloon here, died yesterday from general debility. He was born in Birmingham, England, April 1839, and his last fight for the championship was with Mike McCool, whom he defeated in 1873.

City Marshal Kills His Man.

Olathe, Kan., April 7.—City Marshal S. P. Howland, of Gardner, during a fight lasting half an hour, shot and killed Bud Briggs in Gardner, while Briggs, with two companions, was trying to secure the release of Estelle Briggs, a brother, whom the officer had arrested for disorderly conduct.

Killed by Electric Current.

Marquette, Mich., April 7.—Andrew Johnson while attempting to relight an arc lamp near his home early in the morning, was caught by the current and held fast until life was extinct. It was necessary to shut down the electric plant in order to free the body.

Is a Chaser, Hugger and Thief.

Kalamazoo, Mich., April 8.—Lister Boyle, an 18-year-old boy who held up Mrs. James Langdon and made off with her pocketbook containing \$10, was captured by Chief of Police Geo. Boyles. Boyle admits having chased, hugged and annoyed a number of other women within the past ten days.

Co-Eds Plan a Novel Play.

Ann Arbor, Mich., April 8.—A departure from the usual celebrations of commencement week will be the play planned by the senior girls of the university. Confucius and Socrates visiting aoston women's convention will be represented by the girls.

Sent Up for Two Years.

Lansing, Mich., April 8.—Ex-County Clerk Fred D. Woodworth has been sentenced to the state reformatory at Ionia for two years for embezzlement of county funds. A shortage of about \$2,000 was found in his accounts.

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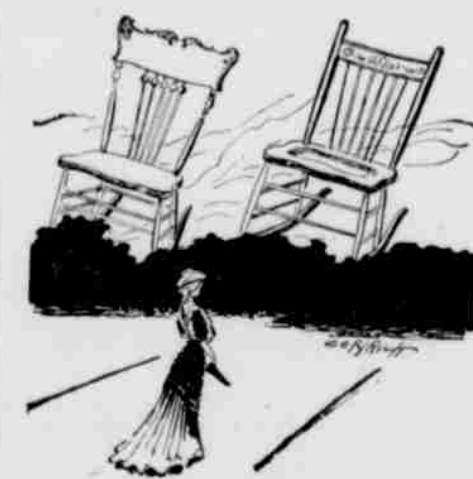
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